

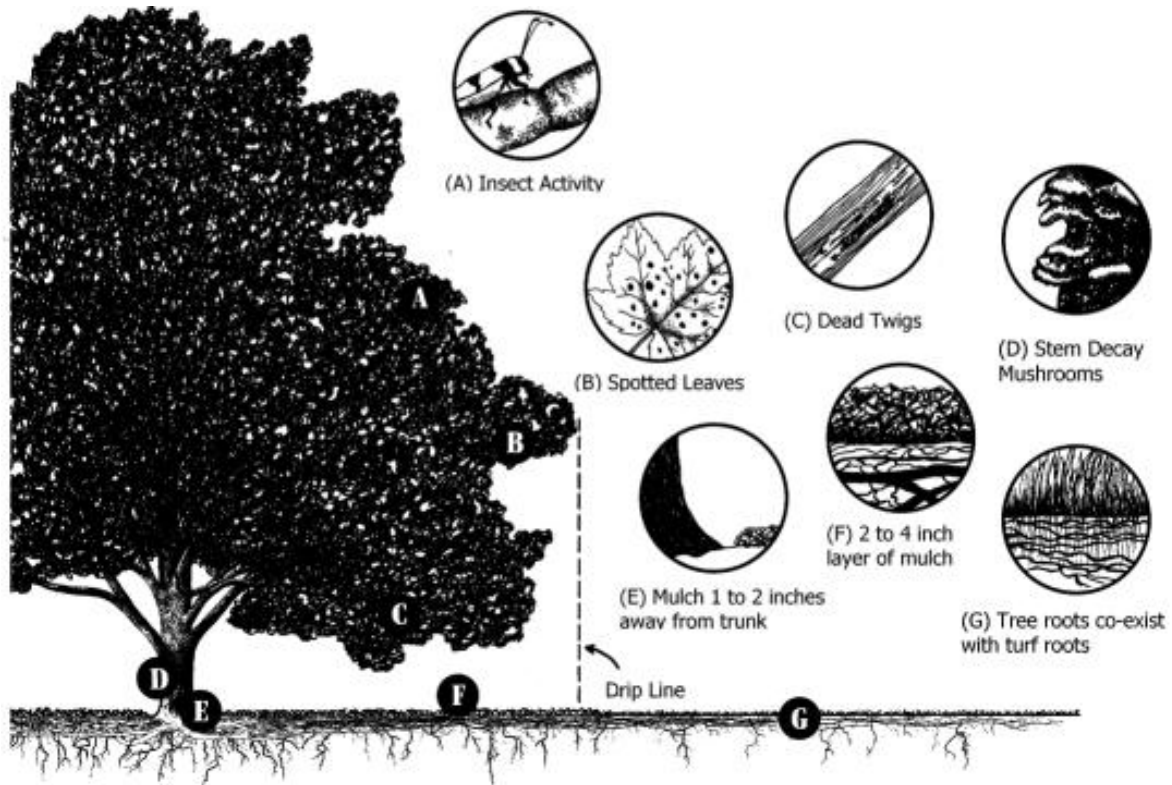
Think of Tree Care as an Investment

A healthy tree increases in value with age

Providing preventative care for your landscape plants is like putting money in the bank. Regular maintenance, designed to promote plant health and vigor, assures their value and will continue to grow. Preventing a problem is much less costly and time-consuming than curing one once it has developed. Considering many tree species can live as long as 200-300 years, caring for your home landscape is an investment that will offer enjoyment and value for generations.

Tree inspection is an evaluation tool to call attention to any change in the tree's health. By inspecting mature trees at least once a year, you can prevent or reduce the severity of future disease, insect and environmental problems. During the inspection, be sure to examine four characteristics of tree vigor: new leaves or buds, leaf size, twig growth, and crown dieback (gradual death in the upper part of the tree).

A reduction in the extension of shoots (new growing parts) such as buds or new leaves is a fairly reliable cue that the tree's health has recently changed. Further signs of poor tree health are trunk decay and/or crown dieback. These symptoms often indicate problems that began several years before. Loose bark or deformed, discolored leaves and twigs, should be noted and watched closely. If you are uncertain as to what should be done, report your findings to a tree care professional for advice on possible treatment.



This article is the first in a series on mature tree care provided as part of a public educational campaign on trees in the City of Milpitas. Copyright International Society of Arboriculture. Used with permission. For more information on Milpitas City Street Trees, contact the Public Works Department at (408) 586-2601.